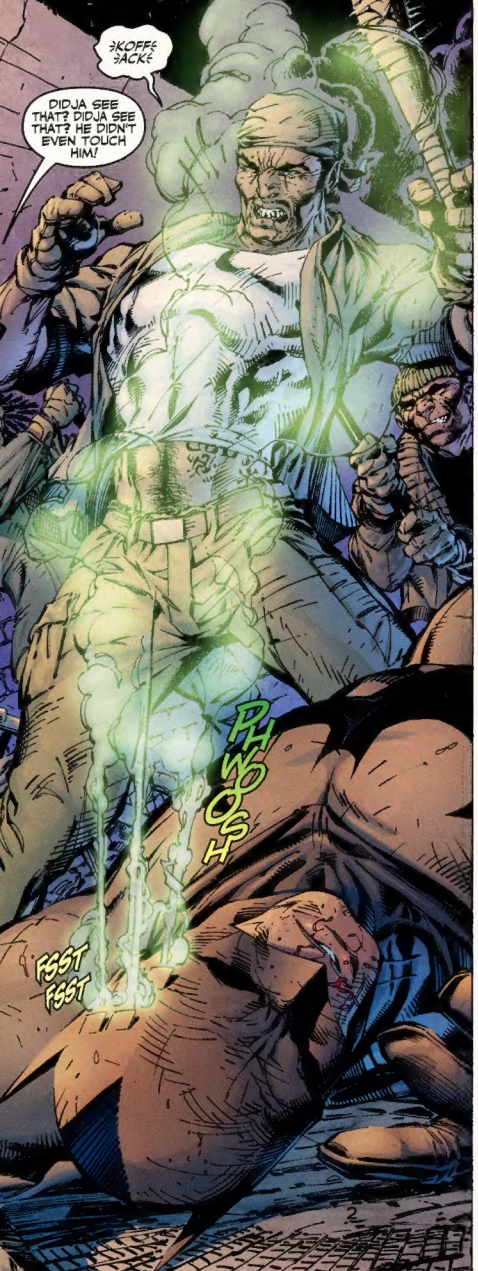
JEPH LOEB
JIM LEE
S. WILLIAMS
GIRLS' NIGHT OUT!
609 JAN 2003
BATMAN
dccomics.com
a Bchry Scan
$2.25 US $3.75 CAN

I can't respond.
...CAN YOU HEAR ME?
Oracle is in my head on the secure line and I can't... respond.
OKAY, PEOPLE, WE'VE GOT A SITUATION.
YOU THINK HE'S DEAD?
I SAW HIM FALL OUTTA THE SKY. LIKE ONE OF THEM PIGEONS WITH A BUSTED WING.
I HEAR HE AIN'T EVEN HUMAN.
WHAT'DYA MEAN "AIN'T HUMAN"? HE'S BLEEDIN'!
HOW DO YA KNOW IT'S HUMAN BLOOD?
THE BLACKBIRD IS DOWN. I REPEAT, THE BLACKBIRD IS DOWN.
I've managed to press the alarm signal on the utility... utility belt to alert her.
I GOT A WAY TO TELL IF HE'S HUMAN OR NOT --
If only I could tell her... Barbara... It's Crime Alley...
HE'S IN THE NORTH END. ANYBODY IN THE AREA?
-- LET'S TAKE OFF HIS MASK!


ƎKOFFƎ ƎACKƎ
DIDJA SEE THAT? DIDJA SEE THAT? HE DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH HIM!
PHWOOSH
FSST FSST

THAT'S IT. I'M GONNA BUST HIM UP --
ƎGAHƎ ...CAN'T SEE... EYES...

AGGGH!
VZZZTT
DAMN, HE 'LECTROCUTED THE MAN!
THIS IS H. I'M IN THE AREA.

GET OUTTA THE WAY. THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DEAL WITH A FREAK LIKE THIS.
O-KAY. IS THERE ANYONE ELSE IN THE AREA?
THANKS FOR THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, O.

I...can smell... the gun oil... but I can't make my arms work...
HUMAN OR NOT, HE DIES NOW.
NO, H, I ONLY MEANT IN CASE YOU NEEDED BACKUP --
VROOOM
KRASH
SHUT UP, O. I KNOW WHAT YOU MEANT.
WHO THE --?!
GUNGH
WHAK
I'M HERE.

I made a promise on the grave of my parents to rid this city of the evil that took them. By day, I am Bruce Wayne, billionaire philanthropist. At night, criminals, a cowardly and superstitious lot, call me...
BATMAN
CREATED BY BOB KANE
HUSH
Chapter Two
THE FRIEND
Jeph LOEB writes
Jim LEE pencils
Scott WILLIAMS inks
Richard STARKINGS letters
Alex SINCLAIR colors
Bob SCHRECK edits
Morgan DONTANVILLE assistant edits
special thanks to Mark CHIARELLO
STEP AWAY WHILE YOU STILL CAN.
Huntress.

BATGIRL!
OH.
YOU'RE TRYING TO TICK ME OFF.
BRAK
GARR
SWOOOSH
TAK
TOK
TELL EVERYONE.
HUNTRESS DID THIS TO YOU.
WITCH! COME ON OUR TURF --
-- DIE ON OUR TURF!
HAMD

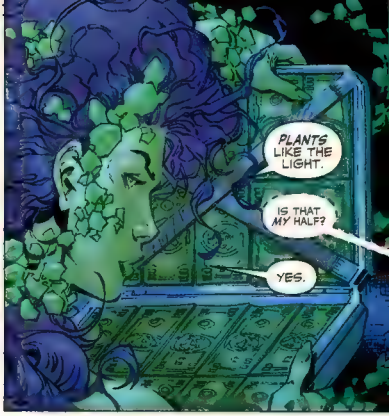
After all we've been through...
...she still fights for... my life...
DAMN YOU... NOT GOING DOWN...
...NOT IN FRONT OF YOU...
GONNA TAKE THIS POLE OF YOURS AND BREAK YOU --
NO!
KRAK
BAX
So much rage.
Not sure I ever saw it... before...

She's better than she knows...
I'LL TAKE THAT BACK NOW.
FAP
...but wastes too much energy proving it.
NOW.
BRING IT ON.
DAP
FOK
SWAG
GAH
O. WE'RE CLEAR. BUT I'M NOT SURE IF HE CAN MOVE.
So much like I was when I started out...
RUMMBLE
!

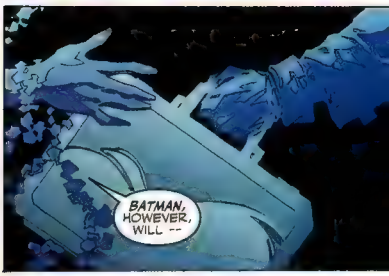
No wonder the others haven't accepted her...
...have to speak to Dick...about...
...about...
WHERE THE HELL DID YOU COME FROM?
SKRFF--
EECHH
H. I'VE SET THE CAR ON AUTO RELAY. IT SHOULD BE THERE ANY MIN--
NO KIDDING.
GOO'H
Car Door
HEY, UM...O. HE'S HURT PRETTY BAD.
GET HIM IN THE CAR.
HE FEELS ALL... BROKEN.
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I --

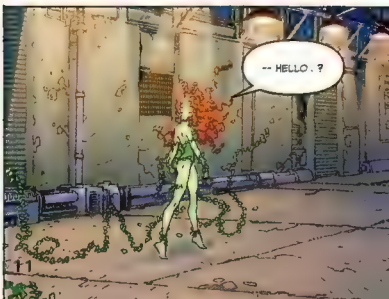
-- CAN DO...?
Car Door
SLAM
VROOOM
SKREEEEEEEEEECH
H...
...I'M SURE WHEN HE CAN... HE WANT TO THANK YOU HIMSELF.
THIS IS ME HOLDING MY BREATH.
"WITHOUT FRIENDS NO ONE WOULD CHOOSE TO LIVE.
"THOUGH HE HAD ALL OTHER GOODS."

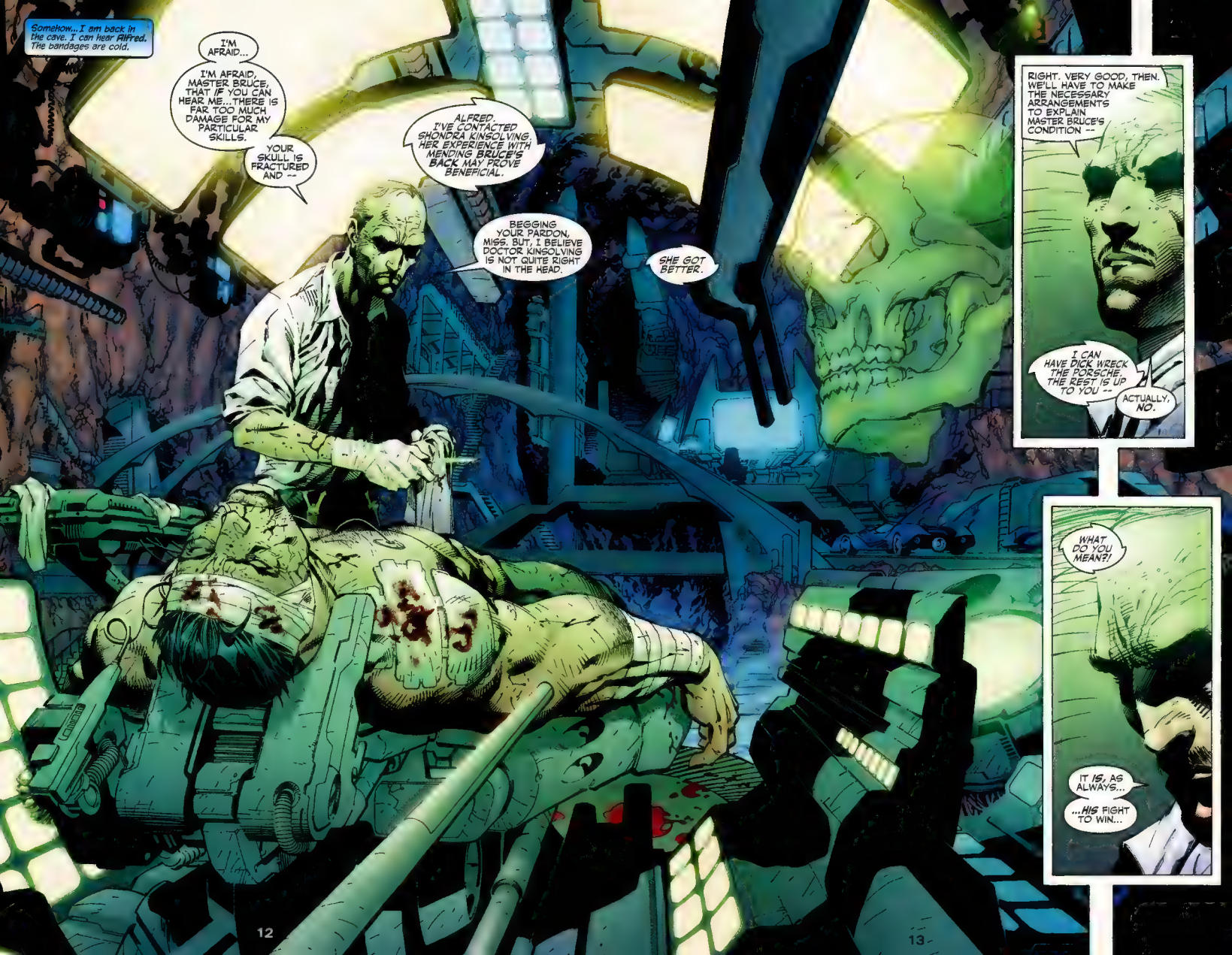
Later
CAN WE GET SOME LIGHT IN HERE?

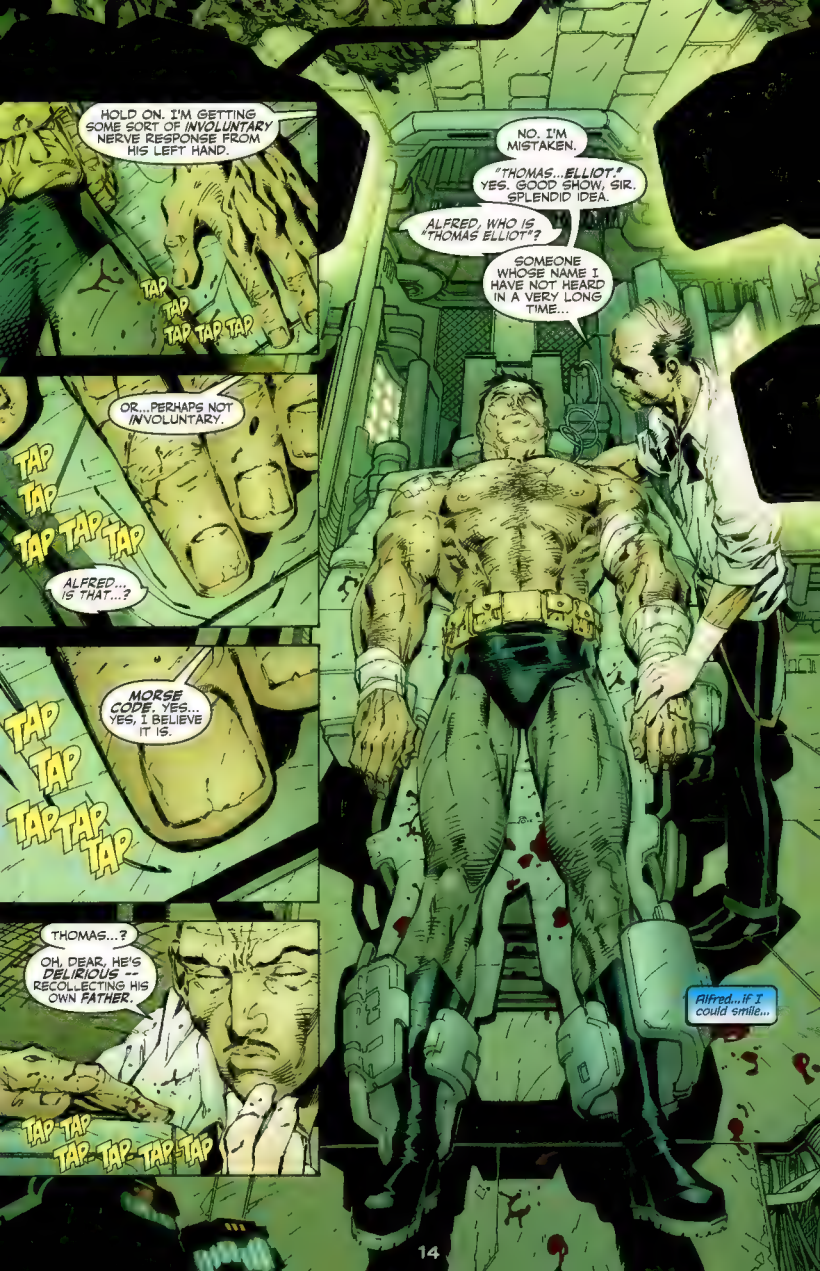

PLANTS LIKE THE LIGHT.
IS THAT MY HALF?
YES.

AND CATWOMAN...?
NOT A PROBLEM


BATMAN, HOWEVER, WILL --


-- HELLO . ?


Somehow...I am back in the cave. I can hear Alfred. The bandages are cold.
I'M AFRAID...
I'M AFRAID, MASTER BRUCE, THAT IF YOU CAN HEAR ME...THERE IS FAR TOO MUCH DAMAGE FOR MY PARTICULAR SKILLS.
YOUR SKULL IS FRACTURED AND --
ALFRED. I'VE CONTACTED SHONDRA KINSOLVING. HER EXPERIENCE WITH MENDING BRUCE'S BACK MAY PROVE BENEFICIAL.
BEGGING YOUR PARDON, MISS. BUT, I BELIEVE DOCTOR KINSOLVING IS NOT QUITE RIGHT IN THE HEAD.
SHE GOT BETTER.
RIGHT. VERY GOOD, THEN. WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO EXPLAIN MASTER BRUCE'S CONDITION --
I CAN HAVE DICK WRECK THE PORSCHE. THE REST IS UP TO YOU --
ACTUALLY, NO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
IT IS, AS ALWAYS...
...HIS FIGHT TO WIN...


HOLD ON. I'M GETTING SOME SORT OF INVOLUNTARY NERVE RESPONSE FROM HIS LEFT HAND.
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
OR...PERHAPS NOT INVOLUNTARY.
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
ALFRED... IS THAT...?
MORSE CODE. YES... YES, I BELIEVE IT IS.
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
THOMAS...?
OH, DEAR, HE'S DELIRIOUS -- RECOLLECTING HIS OWN FATHER.
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
NO. I'M MISTAKEN.
"THOMAS...ELLIOT." YES. GOOD SHOW, SIR. SPLENDID IDEA.
ALFRED, WHO IS "THOMAS ELLIOT"?
SOMEONE WHOSE NAME I HAVE NOT HEARD IN A VERY LONG TIME...
Alfred...if I could smile...

Gotham
Cloudy, chance of rain
Morning Edition
PLAYBOY WAYNE IN NEAR FATAL WRECK
known racing enthusiast, lost control of his sportscar in the early morning hours
-- WAYNE WAS RUSHED TO GOTHAM CITY HOSPITAL WHERE, IRONICALLY, HIS OWN FATHER HELD RESIDENCY --
-- IT IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME IF THE MILLIONAIRE WAS WEARING A SEAT BELT OR WHAT, IF ANY, HIS BLOOD ALCOHOL COUNT WAS --
-- DOCTOR THOMAS ELLIOT, THE RENOWNED SURGEON, IS BEING FLOWN IN FROM PHILADELPHIA --
-- MUST BE NICE TO HAVE FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES.
AND WHEN WE'RE DEALING WITH BRUCE WAYNE, FEW COME HIGHER.
In the fog of anesthesia, I remember one particular Halloween.
My father had promised to take me trick-or-treating and, as usual, was held up at the hospital.
IN A RELATED STORY, SHARES OF WAYNE TECH TUMBLED TODAY IN REACTION TO THE ACCIDENT...

HIS PULSE IS DROPPING.
DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE DOCTOR ELLIOT IS?
My mother, always well-meaning, suggested I call a classmate and go out with one of them instead.
Angry, I told her I had no friends at school.
BOOM
WHY DOES EVERYONE LOOK SO SERIOUS?
THIS IS JUST BRAIN SURGERY, FOLKS.
I'LL HAVE US BACK OUT ON THE GOLF COURSE BEFORE LUNCH.
BRUCE. IF YOU WANTED TO GET TOGETHER AFTER ALL THIS TIME --
-- YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TRY TO KILL YOURSELF TO DO IT.
I lied to my mother.
There was always Tommy Elliot...

YOU SURE YOU *WANT* TO DO THAT?
I *KNOW* WHAT YOU'RE DOING, TOMMY. YOU WANT TO MAKE ME SECOND-GUESS MY MOVE.
ACTUALLY, I'M OFFERING TO SAVE YOUR LIFE.
JUST TRY AND KILL ME.

BRUCE. YOU'RE ALREADY DEAD.
HOW CAN YOU TELL? YOU HAVEN'T EVEN MOVED YET.
IT WON'T HAPPEN ON THE NEXT MOVE. IT IS SIX MOVES FROM NOW.
YOU FORGOT YOUR MOST IMPORTANT PIECE, BRUCE.
I'VE GOT MY GENERAL GUARDED.
NOT YOUR GENERAL. YOUR SPY.

YOU ALWAYS DO THIS, BRUCE.
YOU ALWAYS ATTACK WITHOUT KNOWING YOUR OPPONENT'S WEAKNESSES.
AS LONG AS YOU CAN'T THINK LIKE ME, YOU'LL NEVER BEAT ME.
BUT I CAN ALWAYS THINK LIKE YOU.
AGHH! YOU GOT ME!

C'MON -- LET'S PLAY AGAIN!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S WONDERFUL HOW THEY NEVER *REALLY* ARGUE?
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE *BROTHERS.*
ALL THE BROTHERS *I'VE* KNOWN *ARGUE* ALL THE TIME, MARTHA.
YOU *KNOW* WHAT I MEAN, THOMAS.
ACTUALLY, THIS IS ONE OF THOSE FEW TIMES THAT *I* DO.
BARRING SOME SORT OF UNFORESEEN DISASTER, I THINK OUR SON HAS *FINALLY* FOUND A BEST FRIEND.
THE KIND YOU KNOW YOUR ENTIRE LIFE...

DOCTOR, I THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT FROM HERE. WHY DON'T YOU CLOSE?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW IF MISTER WAYNE WILL EVER PLAY THE VIOLIN AGAIN --
HAHA HA HA HA HA
HAHAHA HA HA HA
-- BUT I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT...
LANET
Friday, November 29, 2002
WAYNE OUT OF DANGER

"WE MAKE WAR...
DAILY PLANET
WAYNE OF DANGER
DISASTER AVERTED
I barely survived the fall.
Had it not been for Tommy.
SLIKT
Had it not been for Alfred.
by Jimmy Olsen
Had it not been for Huntress.
SLIKT
Had it not been for Oracle.
renowned Philadelphia
surgeon, Thomas Elliot, wh
had flown into Gotham City
Had it not been... that someone cut the batrope...
"...THAT WE MAY LIVE IN PEACE."
To Be Continued

DC IN DEMAND 11.02

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This Month's Cover by...
JIM LEE, SCOTT WILLIAMS, ALEX SINCLAIR

Next Month in...
Batman #610
Crikey! Bruce Wayne, Croc Hunter!

SUPERMAN THE 10-CENT ADVENTURE (January 2003) A new era dawns for the Man of Steel as writer Steven T. Seagle (*Uncanny X-Men*) and the art team of Scott McDaniel and Andy Owens (BATMAN) make their debut. Enter Amok, Metropolis's newest villain, along with the Futuresmiths. Plus a startling conclusion! It all starts here — for one measly dime! You'd be crazy not to get one — or two!

The Hot List THIS MONTH

BATMAN FAMILY #1-5
In the wake of "Fugitive," Batman rediscovers his "family" — each issue focuses on a different member. Written by John Francis Moore, with art by Stefano Gaudiano and Rick Hoberg.

FLASH #192
A new 3-part storyline begins as Gorilla Grodd escapes his cell and incites some of the worst villains in the DCU to "Run Riot" in Iron Heights.

HARLEY QUINN #26
The cupid of crime gets a new creative team! Harley is in trouble again — moments from a watery death and wanted for the murder of a GCPD officer.

SUPERMAN: DAY OF DOOM #1-4
Dan Jurgens revisits Doomsday through the eyes of a reporter assigned to do a story on the anniversary of Superman's death as Superman investigates an emerging threat.

Have you heard? **Jeff Smith,** creator and self-publisher of the universally adored *Bone* comics, is taking on SHAZAM! The estimable Mr. Smith is slated to produce a four-issue Prestige Format miniseries starring Captain Marvel. Though the story is inspired by a classic storyline from the '40s, count on this to be a completely original adventure chock-full of Jeff's unique blend of hijinks and pathos. Watch for it in early 2004!

Gail Simone is already known as one of the funniest writers in comics fandom. If you don't believe me, check out her **comicbookresources.com** column "You'll All Be Sorry." She's also a very talented storyteller (not that I should recommend reading the competition's *Agent X*, but what the hey) and now she's got everybody here talking about a great new take on the ROSE AND THORN characters. And even more exciting, she'll be taking over BIRDS OF PREY early next year, joined by super-artist Ed Benes, who is currently burning up the pages as the regular artist on SUPERGIRL. Wanna know more? Check out our Web site!

And speaking of talented people you don't usually associate with DC (yeah, there're still a few we don't have here), rumor in the halls is that the HATEful **Peter Bagge** has gotten something cooking that exposes the seedy underbelly of the comics biz. Oooo, that could be bad (in a good way).

More than one person has asked what **Ryan Sook** has been up to since he left the netherworld of THE SPECTRE. Well, it's a bit early to talk, but I can say that monsters and scary stuff are definitely in his future, but this time they're VERY real and not in the least ethereal.

Six words: **Giffen. Horley.** Lobo. Guns. Dreadlocks. Mayhem. The Main Man is back, with a warning on the cover. (It'll be necessary. You'll see.)

The big buzz is that GOTHAM CENTRAL is gonna do for Batman what *NYPD Blue* did for cop shows. The book looks great (what else would you expect from **Michael Lark**?) but the real noise is coming from what **Brubaker** and **Rucka** are doing with the frustrated cops of Gotham and how they deal with a certain Masked Man who constantly shows them up. Tune in next month here and on the Web site anytime for the latest!

– your Mole at 1700

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